

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

Project Ref No	17-023
Project Title	Linking research and environmental education to reduce Amazonian wildfires
Country(ies)	Brazil
UK Organisation	Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University
Collaborator(s)	Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Belém, Brazil and others
Project Leader	Dr. Jos Barlow (PI), Dr. Luke Parry (coordinating)
Report date	30 October 2011
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2– (reporting period: May to October 2011) second month report
Project website	http://www.tropicalforestresearch.org/projects/humansandwildfires.aspx

We have achieved (and exceeded) our objectives for this reporting period and have encountered no significant hold-ups. Specifically we have:

a) Completed data collection in our three study regions.

b) Developed a data-base for storing our unique dataset. Data entry is on-going and anticipated to be completed by January 2012. Our data entry team is based in Belém and the database will be permanently hosted by our partners, Embrapa.

c) Conducted key stakeholder interviews (semi-structured) with key members of local and federal government agencies and civil society, in Santarém and Paragominas.

d) Our 2 Amazonian MSc students have nearly completed their theses. Dr Parry will provide final supervision in Belém in November 2011, and Dr Barlow will follow this up in January 2012. We have also sent them on specialist statistics courses in the Federal University of Pernambuco.

e) Adopting a cutting-edge remote sensing technique for mapping fire histories in our landscapes, in collaboration with Dr Ane Alencar of the NGO, IPAAM.

f) Dr Parry and Dr Barlow represented the project at an **international meeting of fire experts** in Pucallpa, Peru in August 2011.

g) A Brazilian economics **PhD student Thiago Morello is going to spend 6 months in Lancaster** in 2012 working with us on an economic model of fire/non-fire land preparation

h) We hosted a meeting of our key Brazilian partners (Goeldi Museum & Embrapa) and collaborators from Cambridge University and the London School of Economics in Lancaster in September 2011.

i) Have had two relevant articles accepted in Biological Conservation, (Fires in humid tropical forests: implications for REDD+, and: A framework for integrating biodiversity concerns into national REDD+ programmes).

j) Filming for our community-based fire films is now complete. Editing and production start in November 2011.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

We encountered delays in the development of our online database. We have been in daily contact with the developers and have also kept alternative developers on-hand should delays become unacceptable. However, through perseverance and good communication we have now got a fully-functioning database.

Dr Parry has been offered (and accepted) a Lectureship in Ecosystem Services at Lancaster University. This has no small part to do with the on-going success of our DI project. His time commitments will increase as of 01 November 2011 and thus we have communicated with LTS re: employing a new post-doc until the end of the project. These queries have been quickly and efficiently dealt with and we envisage appointing the new member of the team (using Dr Parry's DI salary) in November 2011.

Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Yes, the change in postdoctoral position from Dr Parry to the new individual has been discussed and agreed.

Discussed with LTS: yes, in October 2011

Formal change request submitted: yes, October 2011

Received confirmation of change acceptance Pending at time of writing

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No, all relevant changes are outlined in the change request form

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**